
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

May 2006

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

An external stakeholders group has begun a 12-month process to evaluate appropriate and sustainable All Terrain Vehicle use on the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest as directed by the forest's master plan approved last October.

Stakeholders to evaluate ATV opportunities

An external advisory group met on May 9th to begin the process of evaluating appropriate and sustainable use of All Terrain Vehicles on Wisconsin's largest state forest as directed by the Natural Resources Board when the Master Plan was approved last fall for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest - a 225,000-acre property located in Iron, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The group will work to develop recommendations for a sustainable ATV connector trail route(s) and use guidelines on the forest by spring, 2007.

This initial meeting was held to define the team mission, outline the process to operate this group, discuss the resources materials needed to conduct the evaluation, and review the Department's ATV trail siting criteria/guidelines. As spokesperson for the NHAL ATV Stakeholders group, Denny Leith can be reached at (715) 358-9226. A list of group members and information on the group's progress are posted at http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/NHAL-atvstakeholder.htm

The DNR offers a voluntary program to suppress gypsy moth outbreaks through state-organized, aerial insecticide treatments. Spraying is nearly completed on the approximately 1,500 acres scheduled for treatment in 2006.

2006 gypsy moth suppression efforts begin

About 1,500 acres in four counties are being treated as part of the 2006 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, which is coordinated by Wisconsin DNR at the request of local officials where spraying will take place. Wisconsin counties being treated this year in the DNR Suppression Program include Brown, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, and Rock. Individual treatment sites vary in size from a 37-acre block in Fond du Lac to a 297-acre area in Manitowoc. To view the treatment areas on the Internet, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/gm/suppress.htm>

DNR offers two ways for local residents in treatment areas to keep abreast of spray plans. A toll-free information line is updated daily during the spraying season, or residents may subscribe to receive e-mail notification of spraying activities. The toll-free information number is 1-800-642-MOTH (6684). To subscribe for e-mail notification, send an e-mail to skwarm@dnr.state.wi.us and type "subscribe gypsy moth" in the subject line.

The department uses a biological insecticide with the active ingredient Btk – a naturally-occurring soil bacteria that, when eaten by gypsy moth caterpillars, causes them to stop feeding and die. Btk is generally not harmful to people, pets or other wild species. Some people with severe allergies may wish to avoid areas to be sprayed on the day that spraying occurs.

The DNR suppression program is done in cooperation with the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture's spraying program, called Slow the Spread (STS). That program treats isolated pioneering colonies in the western and central areas of the state and the goal, as the name implies, is to slow the spread of the gypsy moth. Further details about the cooperative gypsy moth efforts can be found at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>

For more information, contact [Dr. Andrea Diss-Torrance](#) at (608) 264-9247

DNR is seeking public input on current management of 25 areas in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. To read more and comment online, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/roadless/>

State seeks comments on roadless areas

The public is invited to comment on federal management plans for roadless areas within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest at a series of open house meetings:

Park Falls - Park Falls Library, June 22, 3-8 p.m.
Wausau - Wausau Inn and Conference Center, June 27, 3-8 p.m.
Eagle River - Lincoln Town Hall, July 6, 3-8 p.m.
Southeastern Wisconsin - location to be announced, July 11
Fitchburg - location to be announced, July 13 (check [Webpage](#) for location)

Federal rule changes direct the USDA Forest Service to give state governors an option to seek adjustments to existing federal roadless area management plans within their state's borders through a petition process. In his "Conserve Wisconsin" initiative, Gov. Doyle directed DNR to solicit public comment and submit a summary report to his office for a decision regarding petitioning for changes in management on one or more of 25 roadless areas within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests located in north central and northeastern Wisconsin. Seven areas totaling 49,714 acres meet the basic requirements of inventoried roadless area: a total area of greater than 5,000 acres and an improved road density of less than one-half mile per 1,000 acre. Eighteen other areas totaling 69,000 acres are also being considered due to their previous status under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process in the late 1970s.

The public comment period begins on May 19 and runs for 60 days. Summaries of the existing management plans for the 25 areas are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/roadless/> or can be requested by calling or writing Jim Warren at (608) 264-8990. People can also submit feedback electronically through the [Webpage](#) or by mail to Jim Warren, DNR Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Forestry information to help local planners is available at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/SmartForestry/> The Division of Forestry welcomes your feedback to improve this online resource.

Smart Growth Legislation and Wisconsin's Forests

By 2010, any local governmental unit that engages in zoning, official mapping, or land division regulations will be required to have a comprehensive plan. The planning process is about developing a vision for your community and then creating a plan to put that vision into action. The plan will serve as a guide to direct development for years to come. Forests are a large component of our landscape and quality of life. By using today's comprehensive planning process to protect forests and urban green space, you can ensure that your community and its forests will remain healthy long into the future.

The Division of Forestry provides communities and their planners with information and data that covers the economic, ecological, and social impacts of forests at many scales in the Smart Forestry for Smart Growth Planners Toolbox online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/SmartForestry/>

We are in the process of completing a periodic update of the information and data in this toolbox. If you would like to receive email updates, if you have questions, or if you have feedback regarding the toolbox, please contact [Amy Peterson](#) in the Division of Forestry at 608-264-6039.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
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